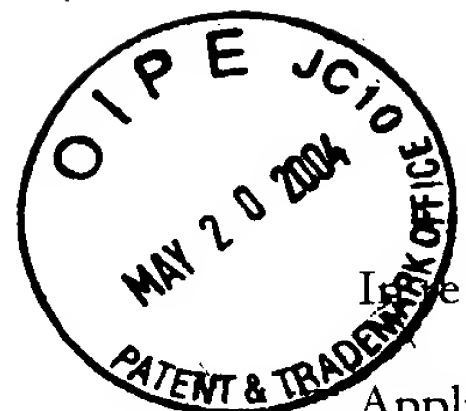


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Efw



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of **Whitman**  
Application No. **09/836,781**  
Attorney Docket No. **3556-P03147US0**  
Filed: **April 17, 2001**  
For: **Electro-Mechanical Surgical Device**  
Examiner: **Tran, Louis B.**  
Group Art Unit: **3721**

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this Correspondence is being deposited on the date identified below with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope properly addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

5/18/04  
Date of Certificate

  
Robin L. Dolan

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

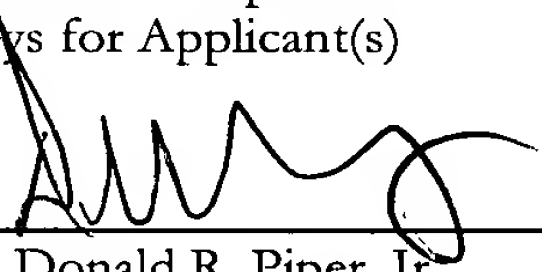
**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97**

In compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants are submitting herewith a Form PTO-1449 and a copy of the references listed thereon. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of an RCE. Accordingly no fee is required.

Applicants respectfully request full and proper consideration of the listed information during examination of the application, and that the listed information be printed on any patent that issues therefrom.

Respectfully submitted,

DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL & SKILLMAN  
A Professional Corporation  
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

By   
Donald R. Piper, Jr.  
PTO Registration No. 29,337

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Enclosures - Form PTO-1449  
Copies of references listed on PTO - 1449

# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT



SHEET 1 OF 2

*Complete if known*

Application Number: 09/836,781

Filing Date: April 17, 2001

First Named Inventor: Whitman

Group Art Unit: 3721

Examiner Name: Tran, Louis B.

Attorney Docket Number: 3556-P03147US0

## UNITED STATES PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE MM-DD-YYYY	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR
		3,252,643	05/1966	Stekkopytov, et al.
		5,314,436	05/24/1994	Wilk
		5,395,033	3/07/1995	Byrne, et al
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EXAMINER'S  
SIGNATURE

DATE  
CONSIDERED

**EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609. Draw a line through citation if citation not in conformance and reference not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT



*Complete if known*

Application Number: 09/836,781

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Group Art Unit: 3721

Examiner Name: Tran, Louis B.

SHEET 2 OF 2

Attorney Docket Number: 3556-P03147US0

		6,517,565	2/11/2003	Whitman
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## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	COUNTRY OR REGION	DATE OF PUBLICATION MM-DD-YYYY	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR OR APPLICANT
		0,634,144	EP	07/14/1994	ETHICON, INC.
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		0,947,167	EP	3/29/1999	ETHICON, INC.
		00/72762	WO	12/07/2000	POWERMED, INC.

## OTHER PRIOR ART - NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Include name of the author (in Capital Letters), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item(book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published

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DATE  
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